

Salt Lake City, Utah,  
December 1, 1859.

*To the Presidents and Members of Seventies:*

DEAR BRETHREN.—It being impossible for us to visit all the quorums of Seventies as often as we would like to do, we take this opportunity of addressing you by letter, reminding you of a few items of importance pertaining to your calling in the Priesthood.

Those Seventies whose names have been dropped from the quorum records, because of failure to furnish the Bishop's recommend, should under no circumstances be admitted to any quorum, without first having obtained permission from this Council. An application to us of such delinquents, will be carefully considered, on representation of the facts. It is not only the privilege but the duty of the presidents, to see that their quorums are kept in good working order. Men who persist in dishonoring their Priesthood and will not repent should be removed from their positions. Otherwise, the growth of this important organization will be retarded. Great care, however, should be exercised to avoid injustice to anyone. And a member should not be removed without first being visited by the quorum Teachers. Habitual absence from quorum meetings, for a considerable length of time without some reasonable excuse, we consider a sufficient cause for removal from the quorum. Drunkenness, dishonesty, and many other evils cannot be tolerated among the Seventies, if they desire, as a body, to enjoy the favor of the Lord, and the fellowship of their brethren.

In recommending brethren to us for missionary labor, we suggest that the names of such persons be sent whose physical condition is good, who are active and faithful at home, and who have the love of the work in their hearts; besides whose financial circumstances are such as will prevent their families becoming a burden to the Church

or Ward in which they reside. For only in rare instances is it now necessary for men in destitute circumstances to go abroad on missions. We advise our brethren to avoid debt and every embarrassment that would prevent their going upon missions at any time their services may be required. It is our duty at any moment to sustain and assist the Twelve Apostles in carrying the Gospel to the nations of the earth.

The following questions have been propounded, which have elicited the following answers:

1.—If a man is dropped from his quorum, does it take his Priesthood from him? Ans. No.

2.—If a member is disfellowshiped from his quorum, to what authority should his case be reported? Ans. The High Council of that Stake.

3.—Can his Priesthood be taken from him, and by what authority? Ans. Yes, by the High Council.

4.—If his Priesthood is taken from him as a Seventy, can he fall back into the Elders' Quorum? Ans. No. His Priesthood can only be taken from him by severing him from the Church. This not only deprives him of all Priesthood and takes away his calling as a Seventy or Elder, but also deprives him of membership in the Church. And should he ever have a desire to again join the Church, he would have to be baptized again for the remission of sins, with the consent of the President of the High Council which excommunicated him.

All Seventies are expected to pay their tithes and offerings, and to understand that the law of tithing is a standing law unto the Church of Christ forever.

Another question is asked: What rule should be followed in the enrollment of presidents and members? Ans. Their names should appear on the records in the order of their ordination.

In selecting names from your quorum, to be submitted to the First Council of Seventies for missionaries, no consultation need be had with the Bishops of the Wards on this selection, as after they are cor-

responded with from this Council and they send their written answer, THAT answer should be endorsed by the Bishop of the Ward and the President of the Stake.

After they have replied to the correspondence from this Council stating their readiness and willingness to go, then, if they hear no more from us, they may be assured that their names have been sent to the Council of Apostles, and they will doubtless hear from the Apostles, or First Presidency of the Church, sooner or later. But when excused, for either a longer or shorter time, a letter from this Council will so inform them.

Many of the quorums are delinquent in sending their payments to the Seventies' General Fund. Not over one-half of the quorums have paid up in the past, while some have paid nothing. This is a very small requirement made upon each member, and where so small an amount of that requirement is paid, constantly leaves this Council in an embarrassed financial condition. Whereas, if all responded readily to this call and paid this small due, we would have funds on hand all the time to meet current expenses.

All dues for the current year should be paid as early as Dec. 31st, 1889, so that we can close our accounts and begin anew with the new year. We are not yet ready to forward you our Financial Report as there are so many delinquents in payment of this fund. We trust that those quorums who have not in the past met this requirement, will, as far as they are able, pay up all past dues by the end of this year.

Genealogical blanks which we furnished you, should be filled out as your quorum stands today, and forwarded to us immediately from all quorums who have not yet done so, and any changes made after forwarding said report should be furnished us immediately after such changes.

In regard to ordaining Seventies and filling up depleted quorums: We have a letter from the First Presidency giving us permission to select from the Elders' Quorums, good and responsible men, to be or-

dained into the Seventies' Quorums, by and with the consent of the Presidency of the Stake and the Presidents of the Elders' Quorums in the districts in which such selections are made. There are a large number of elderly Seventies in nearly all of the quorums who are not physically able to do active duty in the missionary field. All such have the consent of the First Presidency of the Church to be recommended to the High Priests' Quorum, and we have also their consent to choose men from the Elders' Quorums to ordain and fill up any place made vacant by their transfer to the High Priests' Quorum. These will readily perceive that able bodied men are needed in all quorums of Seventies, in order that this Council may be able to supply any demand made upon them for a large number of able bodied missionaries to spread the Gospel throughout the nations of the earth.

Your Theological Classes should be organized at once in every district and division thereof, and put in thorough working order.

The name of your Corresponding Secretary, or the one you want your letters sent to, should be forwarded to the General Secretary of this Council.

We trust that union will be a marked characteristic of all your actions and that each man will strive to learn his duty, and then do it. And thus we will attain to those blessings which it is our privilege to enjoy in the great Latter-day Dispensation and perform our part in the marvelous work of the Lord.

Your Brethren and Fellow Laborers in the Gospel,

HENRY HERRIMAN,

JACOB GATES,

SEYMOUR B. YOUNG,

C. D. FJELDSTED,

JOHN MORGAN,

B. H. ROBERTS.

P. S.—Address all communications to this Council to John M. Whitaker, General Secretary, No. 47 South, First West Street, Salt Lake City, Utah.